

Minutes of NSLS Environmental Management Review Meeting for 2002

9/24/02
1:30 p.m.

Present:

Laboratory Management - J. Taylor

NSLS Management - Steve Dierker, E. Johnson, J. Murphy, R. Casey

Environmental Services - L. Cunniff, B. Lee, G. Goode

Waste Management – K. Carney

NSLS EMS Team - A. Ackerman, J. Aloï, D. Bauer, M. Buckley, S. Musolino

Material Science – B. Sabatini

Casey presented a review of the performance of the environmental management system at NSLS, including a review of NSLS Significant Environmental Aspects and associated work activities. He reviewed the progress on Performance Objectives and Targets established for NSLS in FY 2002, and summarized the measures that are tracked. He noted that all targets had been addressed, and that performance indicators were very positive for the year

Casey reviewed compliance with hazardous waste regulations in the 90-Day area and the Satellite Accumulation Areas as indicated through the self-assessment program. He noted that compliance in general was excellent. An audit by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation had found no violations, and drew laudatory comments about the program. Infractions were occasionally found in the internal Tier 1 program. Overall rate of non-compliances were very low.

He reported 2 independent audits during the year by the BNL Environmental Services Division – one on air emissions and one on PCB. Several exempt emission sources (i.e. hoods) that had not been previously listed in the department inventory were noted and added to the list. Two small metal cleaning devices were delisted from the Site Title V permit after clarification of State requirements. The PCB audit had no findings for the NSLS program.

Casey reported the significant efforts in pollution prevention/waste minimization for the year. Product substitution was an important effort that was initiated. A significant effort to reduce generation of waste oils has also been initiated. Waste minimization efforts over the past several years had resulted in a continuing decline in the waste generation rates at the NSLS.

Other issues discussed at the meeting included: Stakeholder Issues, Costs, NSLS Environmental Strengths, and NSLS Plans for the next year.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Casey asked those present to comment on the following 3 questions:

1. Is the NSLS EMS effective in achieving environmental policy commitments?

Response: There was concurrence that the program was effective. Lori Cunniff commented that NSLS had a good program, as did George Goode. Debbie Bauer commented that the routine work-planning program at the NSLS was the most effective that she has been involved with at BNL. Kathy Carney noted that she was particularly pleased with the on-going efforts to eliminate difficult issues before they became a waste problem. She cited the efforts to eliminate the Cm-244 source and the depleted uranium inventory that NSLS is responsible for.

2. Is the NSLS EMS effective in achieving performance objectives and measures?

Response - Yes - there was consensus that the EMS has been effective at achieving its objectives and targets.

3. Is the NSLS EMS adequate in terms of:

- Identifying significant environmental aspects and impacts?
- Resource allocations?
- Information systems?
- Organizational issues (e.g. staff expertise, procedural requirements)?
- Performance Objectives and Measures?

Response - Yes - There was consensus that the EMS has been effective.

A number of specific topics were raised in the general discussion:

- John Taylor asked about the funding issue for hazardous waste costs and its resolution. K. Carney reported that the Office of Science had indicated that the waste costs would be provided to the programs, but the mechanism for funding had not been established as yet.
- George Goode asked about the NanoScience Center and the role of the NSLS program in providing support to that effort. John Taylor reviewed the current approach to safety at the Nano Center and indicated that much of the NSLS approach to safety, particularly for the user program, would be incorporated into the new facility and programs.

Steve Dierker noted his appreciation for the presence of the Environmental Services personnel at the meeting and was particularly glad to hear their comments about the program.

The Environmental Management Review Meeting was concluded with the acceptance that an effective program was in place to address BNL requirements.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.